

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-19 SAB-01 SAM-01 EB-11 FEA-02 SCI-06 PC-04 AGR-20

COME-00 DLOS-06 COA-02 INT-08 CU-04 DRC-01 /248 W

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R 281400Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4947

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUACCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

RUFJMRGXAMEMBASSY RABAT 3491

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MARCH 27

REF: TUNIS 1754 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: ALL LEAGUE COMMITTEES MET MARCH 27 AND ALL BUT POLITICAL COMMITTEE FINISHED THEIR WORK. POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHIEFLY DISCUSSED ARAB ECONOMIC AID TO AFRICA, AND SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCED DECISION TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ARAB BANK FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. CHIEFS OF DELEGATIONS DISCUSSED RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH YEMEN AND OMAN, AND SEC GEN RIADH ANNOUNCED THAT CONFERENCE WOULD CLOSE EVENING OF MARCH 28. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MORNING OF MARCH 27, FIVE COMMITTEES OF ARAB LEAGUE MET AND ALL BUT POLITICAL COMMITTEE FINISHED THEIR WORK. SUMMARIES OF THEIR WORK AS CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS FOLLOW:

A. POLITICAL COMMITTEE WAS SCHEDULE TO STUDY DATE OF NEXT ARAB SUMMIT, BUT DISCUSSION WAS POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 28. INSTEAD, COMMITTEE CONSIDERED IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF NOVEMBER ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS CONCERNING AFRICAN-ARAB COOPERATION. SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCED DECISION TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (BADESA) FROM \$25 MILLION TO \$50 MILLION, RAISING TOTAL CAPITAL OF BANK TO \$231 MILLION. MOROCCO BECAME SEVENTEENTH COUNTRY TO SIGN AGREEMENT CREATING BADESA, LEAVING BEHREIN AND SYRIA AS ONLY NON-SIGNERS.

UNITED EMIRATES ANNOUNCED CONTRIBUTION OF \$20 MILLION TO FUND TO COMPENSATE AND AID AFRICANS AFFECTED BY INCREASE IN OIL PRICE, WHICH WAS CREATED DURING OPEC MEETING IN JANUARY IN CAIRO. UNITED EMIRATES ALSO CONTRIBUTED \$2 MILLION TO PROGRAM OF ARABIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THIS PROGRAM, WITH INITIAL CAPITAL OF \$15 MILLION, WILL FURNISH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN FORM OF EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS. MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF SAHEL DROUGHT AND RECOMMENDED THAT MEMBERS AID AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

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EGYPTIAN FORMIN FAHMI ARRIVED AFTER MEETING HAD BEGUN AND REPORTEDLY GAVE EXPOSITION ON EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ARAB WORLD AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

B. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ENDED ITS WORK AND TRANSMITTED REPORT TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES AND

ARAB-AFRICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

C. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (PRESIDED OVER BY AMBASSADOR DOUISSEN FROM KUWAITI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) DISCUSSED FINANCIAL REPORT OF SEC GEN OF LEAGUE AND A STUDY DEALING WITH CREATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES INSTEAD OF TEMPORARY ONES.;

D. LEGAL COMMITTEE (PRESIDED OVER BY TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR IN FOREIGN MINISTRY ZOUHIR CHELLI) DISCUSSED HARMONIZATION OF ARAB POSITIONS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, COORDINATION OF ARB POSITIONS REGARDING LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND COORDINATION OF ARAB EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE LEAGUE AND MEMBER COUNTRIES TO JOIN WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR AID IN CASE OF NATURAL CATASTROPHIES. COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED TO ESTABLISH GROUP OF EXPERTS TO STUDY UNIFICATION OF LEGISLATION IN ARAB WORLD AND RECOMMENDED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES JOIN WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO) WITH HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA.

E. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSED SITUATION OF ARAB WORKERS OVERSEAS AND POSSIBILITY OF AIDING PALESTINIAN STUDENTS BY CREATING UNIVERSITY FOR PALESTINIANS.

3. AFTER EVENING PLENARY SESSION OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATIONS MARCH 27, LEAGUE SEC GEN RIADH ANNOUNCED THAT COUNCIL DISCUSSED INTER-ARAB RELATIONS, SPECIFICALLY RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH YEMEN AND OMAN (SANAA 584). RIADH ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT CONFERENCE WOULD CLOSE EVENING OF MARCH 28.

4. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA CONTINUED HIS CONTACTS WITH HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF LEAGUE, MEETING MARCH 27 WITH FONMINS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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KUWAIT, ARAB EMIRATES (WHO ANNOUNCED THAT CHIEF OF STATE CHEIKH ZEAID BEN SULTAN WOULD VISIT TUNIS IN SEVERAL DAYS), BEHREIN, LEBANON AND SOUTH YEMEN. SOMALI FORMIN ARTEH AND CHIEF OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION JAMEL SOURANI LEFT TUNIS EVENING MARCH 27. SYRIAN FOMIN KHADDAM GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING MARCH 28 (SEPTTEL.)

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